

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, July 12, 1973

COULD BE IMPROVED

This year's July Fourth Duxbury Days Parade cost \$2900. Was it worth it?

There were some good features. It is always an interesting, if not an arresting sight, to see the long procession of fire engines, as well as the antique cars, which become more antique every year. These are familiar units.

We thought Horribles had been outlawed, but there was one this year. One that gave the word horrible a bad name. There is no need for vulgarity in our annual parade, although there always seems to be room for a touch of the scatological, if not pornographic.

As far as we could determine, there were only 2 floats in the parade. The winning float entered by the Tinkertown Association was terrific. It was historic, colorful, faithful to the last detail of a cloaca minima (look, this is Latin for outhouse). But in accepting the \$200 first prize the president of the association was apologetic. Second prize went to three enterprising lads from Camp T, who entered an attractive float. But there were no other entries, alas!

There were several bands, some of them bedraggled units who looked as if they had had no time for drill since the Spanish-American War. There were a few good scattered features, but they were widely scattered and narrowly featured.

The annual parade is becoming more commercial, far less colorful. Attractive floats make for a good parade, but you won't get attractive floats unless you have a few Legion members working hard, making suggestions, supplying equipment.

Back in 1947 or 1948 Arthur Beane (now of Kingston) and the Clipper editor were on the float committee. We persuaded many organizations to enter floats, including the Winslow House, the Duxbury Community Garden Club, 4-H clubs, the PTA, Camp Wing and other organizations, along with individual entries. We ran around town lining up flat-bed trucks, getting a carriage for this horse, a horse for that gig, and finally lined up a long procession of floats. We didn't depend on antique cars, putting the accent on antique horseless carriages. It was a lot of work, but the results were satisfactory. If memory serves we had at least part of the DHS Band, along with marching units of boy and girl scouts.

Now that the carnival has happily moved to Marshfield (and watch out for the pickpockets, boys and girls), and the bonfire and fireworks have been eliminated, along with the races and Miss Duxbury Days contest, an effort should be made to run a better parade.